



News Release

USDA FOREST SERVICE - TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

Yakutat Ranger District, 712 Ocean Cape Road, Yakutat, AK 99801

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Nunatak Bench Moose Season Closes

Yakutat, Alaska -- The Forest Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Douglas are announcing an early closure to the registration permit moose hunt (RM059) in unit 5A for that area designated as Nunatak Bench. An aerial survey was conducted of this area on December 4, 2005, and only 14 moose were observed. A follow up survey on December 5 confirmed this low number of moose.

The average annual moose count at Nunatak since 1994 has been 34 moose, giving us an estimated population of about 50 animals as called for in our management plan. Given the low number of moose seen during the most recent surveys, we consider any harvest to be detrimental to this moose herd. Therefore, a State of Alaska emergency order (01-08-05) was issued to close the moose hunting season at Nunatak Bench at 11:59 pm, Saturday, 10 December 2005. The Federal Subsistence Season closes at 11:59 pm, on Friday, 16 December 2005.

Hunters are reminded that with this closure, the only moose hunt remaining open in Unit 5 is RM062 in Unit 5B, and that season ends today, December 15, 2005.